

Dear legislators,

My name is Taneta McCaw from Plantsville. My son attends CREC Discovery Academy in Wethersfield, CT.

I want my son to always have better than I did. I could have sent him to school where we live and he would have gotten a good education with very little diversity, like me. He could go to school where his dad lives, and he may not make it to high school. Instead, he goes to a magnet school.

He started in pre-k. It was a blessing as a single mother to have him attend school all day where he is learning. My son is always one of the youngest in his class. His teachers always tell me he's one of the leaders. He encourages his classmates by cheering them on and supporting them, even while racing. He knows that it takes teamwork.

I love the activities his school offers and so does he. There are nights where we can explore food from around the world, learn new dances from different cultures, and learn about someone's background that we may never have known otherwise, all in one place. There are movie nights, art displays, and artists that visit the school. This allows my son to see people who look like him when he walks the halls, looks at door decorations, or visits the library. His teachers memorialize the class by having dresses made with their handprints. He can explore his creativity by building and drawing. He can have discussions about race and equality, while making a compelling argument about each better than some people who are older and more educated. He can think outside the box, and he isn't censored for having a difference of opinion.

He has experienced more than he would have received by attending an in district school. He isn't looked at as a problem child because of the color of his skin. He is shown daily what he can do with support, love, and faith. He wouldn't get that if he didn't attend a magnet school. Give kids the opportunity to find themselves and be better than we can even imagine.

Sincerely,

Taneta McCaw